

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. WELLER. Madam Speaker, had I been present on the legislative day of June 18th for rollcall votes 499 through 501, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 499, "aye" on rollcall vote 500, and "aye" on rollcall vote 501.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 15, I was en route to California to attend the Stanford University graduation ceremonies for my son, Matt. As such, I was absent for rollcall votes 492 through 498.

If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted as indicated below: rollcall No. 492: "aye"; rollcall No. 493: "nay"; rollcall No. 494: "aye"; rollcall No. 495: "aye"; rollcall No. 496: "aye"; rollcall No. 497: "aye"; and rollcall No. 498: "aye".

COMMENDING NANCY HOLMES ON THE OCCASION OF BEING HONORED BY THE HISTORIC MOBILE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend Nancy Holmes and offer her our heartfelt thanks on behalf of the people of southwest Alabama for a lifetime of service to both the City of Mobile and the State of Alabama.

For almost six decades, Nancy has dedicated a considerable amount of time toward preserving Mobile's historic landmarks. Nancy Holmes moved to Mobile in 1950 and was one of the original members of the Mobile Historic Development Commission. She served several terms as president where she established a fund to prevent the destruction of historic buildings, including the Horst-Ezell House.

One of the most highly regarded preservation architects in the United States, Nancy has received many honors over her years of service including the M.O. Beale Scroll of Merit, a certificate of appreciation from the governor of Alabama, the Travel Award Trophy from the Mobile Chamber of Commerce, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alabama Historical Commission, and the First Lady of Mobile recognition in 1966. She has also held several positions with the Historic Mobile Preservation

Society including president, civics chairman, Oakleigh Historic House Museum guides chairman and program chairman. She has published articles in Antique magazine and is actively involved in the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a member.

This month, the Historic Mobile Preservation Society is bestowing Nancy with the Preservationist of Distinction award for her lifetime of achievement as a historic preservationist.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Nancy for her tireless commitment to the betterment of Mobile. I know her family and many friends join with me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts over the years in making Mobile and southwest Alabama a better place.

IN HONOR OF THE RIDGEWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Ridgewood Chamber of Commerce for its 80 years of outstanding public service to the residents, businesses, and community of Ridgewood, NJ. I have had the honor of meeting with the men and women of this fine organization and have seen firsthand the tremendous sense of dedication they have to their neighbors.

The board of directors that runs the operations of the Chamber of Commerce is very active in meeting the needs of its membership, raising funds for Chamber activities, organizing events to draw people to downtown businesses, and running a scholarship fund for local students. Under the leadership of its current officers with President Tony Damiano at its helm, the Chamber has made great strides. And, I have every expectation of that under the tutelage of the incoming officers: President Ed Sullivan, Vice President John Kiernan; Treasurer Patricia Duarte; and Secretary Linda Coombs.

The Ridgewood Chamber of Commerce will continue to excel in all its endeavors, helping to raise the quality of life in the Village of Ridgewood for all who live, work, and visit that community for the next 80 years as well.

TRIBUTE TO MOLLY LLOYD

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Molly Lloyd, who has recently retired from my congressional staff after 8 years of

dedicated and excellent service to the constituents of the Second Congressional District of Nebraska. With a 1-year-old daughter, Ellie, and 5-year-old daughter, Emma, she and her husband, Mark, are devoting their time to their family, which makes a tribute to her all the more bittersweet. I wish the Lloyds all the happiness in the world as they embark on the next stage of their lives together.

Molly is a lifelong Nebraskan and was born to proud parents Kay and Bob Koozer in Omaha. She graduated from Westside High School in 1991 and attended Hastings College where she earned a bachelor's degree in communications in only 3 years. After college, she worked to elect Mayor Hal Daub for the city of Omaha and served as his director of public affairs until 1997. I was fortunate to gain her as a member of my congressional staff upon my election in 1998.

In fact, although people in the community criticized me for hiring someone so young to become the director of my Omaha office, their criticisms were soon silenced as her talents and her commitment to selfless public service became obvious to the entire community. Her strong leadership skills and fierce dedication to conservative principles have served my office well.

Molly knows her hometown inside and out and is an active member of the community, including volunteering and advocating for causes and organizations such as the Joslyn Foundation, the American Diabetes Association, and as a founder of the Leadership Circle to help the next generation of women leaders enter public service. Despite her departure from our Omaha office staff, we know Molly will continue to do great things for the betterment of our State and community.

I appreciate Molly's friendship, and I respect her dedication and invaluable contributions over the past eight years. I trust Molly will succeed in all her future endeavors. I am proud to call her a friend and to congratulate and honor her today for all that she has accomplished. I wish her many blessings and much happiness as she begins this new part of her life. Although I am tremendously sorry to see her leave our office, her young daughters will now be privileged to receive the full-time benefits of her extraordinary talents.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT J. BURROWS

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert J. Burrows, a respected and invaluable resident of the 13th district of New Jersey. Mr. Burrow's life set a higher standard in public service and dedication to the well-being of his community through his roles in the areas of education, public office and congressional service.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Robert Burrows made Bayonne, NJ, his home for the last 50 years. He was instrumental in shaping the City's government, making his mark after serving as Bayonne's First Ward Councilman from 1994 to 1998. Mr. Burrows also served as Commissioner of the Bayonne Board of Adjustment, later becoming vice chairman.

Robert Burrows helped shape the future of the City of Bayonne as a citizen-appointed Member of the Hudson/Bergen Bayonne Light Rail Advisory Committee. In this capacity, he led Bayonne in becoming the first stop of the historic light rail system that has brought expansion and economic development to the region. Mr. Burrows also served as trustee of the Board of Education during the construction of the Midtown Community School.

Throughout his life, Mr. Burrows was an active member of the community. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Holy Name Society, St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish Council, the Bayonne Sicilian Club, and Irelands 32. Mr. Burrows also served on the Board of the Bayonne Community Museum and was First Chairman of the Bayonne Historic Preservation Commission. His love for public service was also demonstrated as a member of the New Frontier Democrats.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Robert Burrows was a graduate of New York University. He was a dedicated employee of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for 42 years until his retirement as vice president of the Claims Division.

From 1998 to 2006, Mr. Burrows served as congressional aide to U.S. Senator ROBERT MENENDEZ, and I was proud to have him serve in my office until his retirement. I congratulate Bob and his family for his dedication to the constituents of the 13th congressional district and in particular, to the residents of Bayonne.

The outpouring of expressions of condolence to his wife Marie, his children and grandchildren are evidence that his commitment to helping others will be deeply missed. I join them in mourning the loss of a true gentleman, whose memory will live in the hearts of the many people he touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent yesterday afternoon, June 18, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the three votes which occurred yesterday evening, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 2563, rollcall vote No. 499; I would have voted "aye" on H. Con. Res. 151, rollcall vote No. 500; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 233, rollcall vote No. 501.

INTRODUCTION OF 2007 MINE SAFETY PACKAGE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, in the hope of keeping the health and safety needs of our

coal miners at the forefront of our Nation's conscience, I am pleased to join my colleagues, the Chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, GEORGE MILLER, and ALAN MOLLOHAN from West Virginia in sponsoring a new legislative package on mine safety.

The mine tragedies of last year are the result of a government and a Nation that let down its guard. That should never have happened.

Nevertheless, the Congress responded quickly and appropriately with the passage of the MINER Act, which I proudly supported. Today, the Congress continues responding with the introduction of the Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2007 (S-MINER).

This bill would ban the use of belt air to ventilate the working face of a mine—a flaw that contributed to the fatal fire at the Aracoma mine in my district. I have long opposed this practice, and I am glad to support the ban contained in this bill.

The bill requires improvements to air quality monitoring to guard against black lung disease, better safety examinations, and improved construction and monitoring of seals—all things that could have helped to save some of the 47 lives lost in the coalfields in 2006.

Also, importantly to my State, S-MINER calls for the installation of refuge chambers and helps to coordinate State and Federal deadlines and safety mandates. In West Virginia, operators are facing those looming requirements. A Federal requirement for chambers would undoubtedly save lives. It would, as well, help to reduce their cost and increase their availability, ensuring that more of our miners have access to refuges in life-threatening emergencies.

The legislative package contains concepts and provisions that have been part of mine safety discussions for years, if not decades. The elements contained within should not come as a surprise to anyone who has been within shouting distance of the coalfields in the last several months.

I welcome the discussion and the debate sure to come concerning this legislation. As long as we are talking about mine safety—whether we agree or not—we are not ignoring it. And that is a critical improvement to the purposeful neglect of recent years.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague, GEORGE MILLER, for his attention to this vital issue and I thank him for his continuing work on behalf of our Nation's coal miners and their families.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 498, I inadvertently voted "no" on H.R. 2642, the appropriations bill for military construction and the Department of Veterans affairs. I intended to vote "yes". This is an important piece of legislation. H.R. 2642 will be the vehicle for appropriating the funds directed to the new VA hospital, authorized in the FY 07 appropriations process, that will be located in central Florida.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2642, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2642) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, we have a solemn responsibility to honor the promises we've made to our veterans. Boldly heeding the call to duty, brave men and women from across America have served with distinction in defense of our Nation. They have dedicated their lives to safeguarding the promise and potential of our country, and we have an obligation to repay their commitment.

The veterans of California's 6th District understand that our obligation to our service men and women does not end when they return home. The importance of providing our veterans with the benefits they need and deserve does not abate just because our troops are no longer serving in the field. Our support for troops is a lifelong commitment.

The substandard care, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and deplorable conditions exposed at Walter Reed Military Hospital underscore broken promises to our Nation's veterans. We cannot allow the Bush administration's failure to become the hallmark of our country's commitment to our veterans. Our veterans deserve much better.

The Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2008 is a resolute step toward fulfilling the promises to our veterans that the Republican-controlled Congress neglected during the past 12 years. This bill increases the VA's budget by \$6.7 billion above fiscal year 2007 funding levels, providing the greatest single increase in funding for veterans health care in the 77-year history of the VA and, for the first time, exceeding the budget requests of independent veterans service groups. Additionally, this legislation confronts the 400,000 claims backlog from veterans awaiting decisions on the status of their disability benefits by adding more than 1,100 new claims processors. By allocating critical funding to help repair veteran's health care facilities, establish eight new centers to care for veterans suffering from Traumatic Brain Injuries, and facilitate the transition from the Defense Department to the VA, this appropriations bill will go a long way toward fixing the problems that the Bush administration has allowed to fester.

The veterans' community needs our reinvestment in their health care and benefits system. Our service members have proved courage and patriotism, and it's our turn to prove that we can keep our promise to them. This Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Appropriations bill shows that we can provide our veterans with medical care, benefits and social support in a timely manner. By passing this bill, we can start to repay them for the bravery they have shown.